

**QA-612**  
**Bryan-Parr Farm**  
**2403 Bennett Point Road**  
**Queenstown vicinity, Queen Anne's County**

**Constructed ca. 1860s**  
**Private**

Set in a rural area on the neck of land between the Wye River and Greenwood Creek, the property at 2403 Bennett Point Road encompasses a historic house and nine historic outbuildings that form an excellent collection of agricultural and domestic outbuildings associated with a nineteenth-century general farm and a twentieth-century dairy farm. Located on the east side of Bennett Point Road, the two-and-one-half story, side-gable, side-hall, double-pile house was constructed in the 1860s as a frame dwelling in the Italianate style. In the 1980s, the house was clad in brick and was expanded with two brick additions that are reminiscent of the nineteenth-century frame telescoping additions demolished earlier in the twentieth century.

The house at 2403 Bennett Point Road was constructed by Edward Bryan, who inherited the property in 1866 from his father, Valentine, a wealthy ship owner and landowner. Originally, the house was an Italianate-style building clad with wood weatherboard siding. From the nineteenth through the twentieth centuries, the house with its nine historic agricultural and domestic outbuildings was the center of a general farm and dairy farm typical for Queen Anne's County during the period. From 1937 to 1947, Walter A. and Helen B. Schiffer of New York City owned and occupied the property. Their ownership of the farm illustrates the migration of wealthy outsiders to the Eastern Shore in the early and mid-twentieth century. In the 1980s, the house underwent significant alterations; brick cladding replaced the wood weatherboard, and two side additions were constructed.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. QA-612

### 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Bryan Farm  
other Bryan-Parr Farm (preferred)

### 2. Location

street and number 2403 Bennett Point Road not for publication  
city, town Queenstown ☒ vicinity  
county Queen Anne's County

### 3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Anne S. Parr  
street and number 2403 Bennett Point Road telephone  
city, town Queenstown state MD zip code 21658-1118

### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Queen Anne's County Courthouse liber MWM 264 folio 422  
city, town Centreville tax map 72 tax parcel 94 tax ID number 05-012732

### 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District  
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District  
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER  
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT  
☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	10
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	0
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	0
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	0
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	10
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	0
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	0
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	0
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	0
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	0
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	0
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	0
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	0
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	0
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	0
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	0

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory  
0

## 7. Description

Inventory No. QA-612

### Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

### Summary

Set in a rural area on the neck of land between the Wye River and Greenwood Creek, the property at 2403 Bennett Point Road encompasses a historic house and nine historic outbuildings that form an excellent collection of agricultural and domestic outbuildings associated with a nineteenth-century general farm and a twentieth-century dairy farm. Located on the east side of Bennett Point Road, the two-and-one-half story, side-gable, side-hall, double-pile house was constructed in the 1860s as a frame dwelling in the Italianate style. In the 1980s, the house was clad in brick and was expanded with two brick additions that are reminiscent of the nineteenth-century frame telescoping additions demolished earlier in the twentieth century.

### Description

The twenty-seven-acre property is located east of Bennett Point Road approximately four and one-half miles from U.S. Route 50. The house faces south towards an orchard and an agricultural field. A gravel driveway extends east from Bennett Point Road and runs north of the house and through the middle of the agricultural building complex that lies east of the house; a parking area is located northeast of the house and just north of the smokehouse. The north side of the driveway is lined with cement fence posts that once enclosed a pasture area; the fence rails are missing. South of the driveway, a level grass lawn with scattered mature trees surrounds the house and extends to an orchard on the southeast and an agricultural field that lies east of the house and south of the outbuildings. Several outbuildings, including the milkhouse, dairy barn, large barn and two sheds, are obscured by overgrown bushes, trees and vines. The smokehouse, horse barn, well house, and machinery shed are in fair to good condition with the exception of one shed that is in ruinous condition. A feed shed, which now stands on an adjacent property, was associated with the farm for most of its existence.

### *Exterior*

The house consists of an 1860s, two-and-one-half story, side-gable, frame dwelling with brick cladding and a side-hall plan; a two-story, side-gable addition; and another one-and-one-half story, side-gable addition. Built in the 1980s, both additions extend from the east side of the house in a telescoping formation; they echo earlier frame additions to the house— one of which appears in a nineteenth-century photograph – that were removed prior to 1964.<sup>1</sup> Before the construction of the 1980s additions, the current owners removed the original front porch, wood clapboard, and cornice with Italianate brackets, and installed brick cladding. A one-story, shed-roofed kitchen addition clad in vinyl siding on the north side of the main house and a one-story, shed-roofed porch on the north side of the two-story addition complete the building's footprint.

The four-course, common bond, continuous brick foundation under the main block is original to the house. A brick belt course extends across the façades of the main block and two-story addition. A square wood cornice and enclosed eaves divide the façade from the roof. The gable roof, which is clad in asphalt shingles, features two brick chimneys with corbelled caps that are positioned in the north and south roof slopes, approximately one-third of the way from the ridge to the front edge; their location corresponds to the interior division between the side hall and the rooms. A flat-roofed portico with a metal railing around the second story covers the front entrance, and has a raised, continuous brick foundation, and brick steps and stoop. Constructed when the brick cladding was added, the metal portico is composed of double, square, fluted columns at each corner, a single pilaster against the wall, and a frieze decoration of dentil molding.

The three-bay façade (south elevation) of the main block features an original four-panel wood door. A five-light transom and side lights composed of three lights over one wood panel surround the door. A wood storm door with two-over-two glass panels covers the exterior door. Six-over-six, double-hung, vinyl windows with vinyl trim are used throughout the first and second stories of the main block and additions. The window surrounds are formed by soldier-arch lintels and rowlock brick sills. The two three-light basement

<sup>1</sup> Photograph owned by Anne Parr and a discussion about the site with Mrs. Parr on 7/17/07.

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. QA-612

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/	<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

### Specific dates

### Architect/Builder

**Construction dates** 1860s with 1980s additions

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

### Statement of Significance

The house at 2403 Bennett Point Road was constructed by Edward Bryan, who inherited the property in 1866 from his father, Valentine, a wealthy ship owner and landowner. Originally, the house was an Italianate-style building clad with wood weatherboard siding. From the nineteenth through the twentieth centuries, the house with its nine historic agricultural and domestic outbuildings was the center of a general farm and dairy farm typical for Queen Anne's County during the period. From 1937 to 1947, Walter A. and Helen B. Schiffer of New York City owned and occupied the property. Their ownership of the farm illustrates the migration of wealthy outsiders to the Eastern Shore in the early and mid-twentieth century. In the 1980s, the house underwent significant alterations; brick cladding replaced the wood weatherboard, and two side additions were constructed.

### Narrative

The twenty-seven acre tract at 2403 Bennett Point Road was part of a much larger, seventeenth-century estate known as "Russell Dale." By the mid-nineteenth century, the land belonged to Valentine Bryan, a ship owner who acquired nearly 3,000 acres of land, including at least 750 acres of Russell Dale. He died intestate in 1848, and it took nearly twenty years for the estate to be settled.<sup>1</sup> In 1866, Valentine Bryan's son, Edward, inherited the 752-acre tract called Russell Dale.<sup>2</sup> He sold two portions to his brothers Thomas and George, but retained 420 acres, including the site where the present house is located. That same year, a historic map places Edward Bryan's house at the location of 2403 Bennett Point Road, indicating that he likely built the house in or before 1866.<sup>3</sup>

The two-and-one-half-story, side-gable house was an Italianate-style structure clad with wood weatherboard siding. Originally, the house incorporated a full-width, hipped-roof front porch that stood on brick piers, and featured a cornice of Italianate brackets similar to those on the main block roof. A two-story, frame addition with full-width porch stood to the east.<sup>4</sup> Of the extant historic outbuildings, the smokehouse is probably the only one that is contemporaneous with the house.

The 1860 Federal Population Census listed Edward Bryan as a farmer who owned \$20,000 worth of real estate.<sup>5</sup> By 1870, the value of his real estate increased to \$30,000.<sup>6</sup> In 1871, Edward Bryan deeded the Bennett Point Road property to Thomas J. Keating and John

<sup>1</sup> "Russell Dale, 1658," paper prepared for Anne S. Parr, courtesy of Mrs. Parr.

<sup>2</sup> See attached Chain of Title (Section 8, Continuation Sheet 3) for this and all subsequent deed references, J. G. Strong's *Map of Queen Anne's County* (n.p.: J.G. Strong, 1866).

<sup>4</sup> Late nineteenth-century photograph owned by Anne Parr and a discussion about the site with Mrs. Parr on 7/17/07. The photograph does not show the far east end of the addition, and so does not give any view of a second, smaller addition to the east that Mrs. Parr reported was once part of the house.

<sup>5</sup> 1860 U.S. Population Census, Queen Anne's County, Maryland, District 5, Queenstown P.O., p. 143.

<sup>6</sup> 1870 U.S. Population Census, Queen Anne's County, Maryland, District 5, Queenstown P.O., p. 14.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. QA-612

*See Continuation Sheet 9-1.*

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property	26.88 acres
Acreage of historical setting	400-450 acres
Quadrangle name	Queenstown

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000 (7.5 minute)

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The property boundary is defined by the current parcel boundaries shown on tax map 72, grid 12, parcel 94 in Queen Anne's County, Maryland.

## 11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Evelyn D. Causey, Ph.D., Senior Historian, and Gerald M. Maready, Jr., Architectural Historian		
organization	History Matters, LLC	date	December 21, 2007
street & number	1502 21 <sup>st</sup> Street, NW, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor	telephone	202-223-8845
city or town	Washington	state	DC

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to:

Maryland Historical Trust  
Maryland Department of Planning  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600



# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. QA-612

Name: Bryan-Parr Farm  
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 1

---

windows with wood sash and horizontal, wood, exterior bars appear to be historic and may be original. The second story contains three symmetrically placed windows.

The fenestration on the west elevation is composed of two symmetrically placed windows on the first and second stories. Three fixed, three-light windows at the basement level are not evenly placed. The centered gable window is an arched, six-over-six, double-hung, vinyl window that is smaller than those on the first and second stories. The gable window features vinyl trim and an arched brick lintel. The boxed eaves terminate in a slight cornice return. Two-thirds of the first story on the north elevation is covered by the shed-roofed addition. One first-story window and three second-story windows appear around the addition. The two-story addition covers most of the east elevation, leaving exposed one window on each story and a gable window that is similar to that on the west elevation.

The three-bay, two-story addition and the two-bay, one-and-one-half story addition rest on a continuous brick foundation and are similar to the main block in exterior materials and fenestration. The entrance to the two-story addition is located under a two-bay, one-story, open porch with an asphalt-shingle roof and square, metal posts that extends across the north (rear) elevation. The porch has a tongue-and-groove, wood ceiling and a brick floor. According to the current owner, the paneled wood door was found in one of the barns on the property; it appears to date to the original construction of the house since it matches the front door. The north elevation of the addition has two windows to the east of the door and a small octagonal window to the west.

The two-bay, one-and-one-half story addition features a centered dormer on the south and north elevations. The south elevation has two windows. One bay of the north elevation contains a door opening covered by a shed-roofed overhang that is supported by brackets. The east elevation features two symmetrically placed windows on the first story and centered, French doors overlooking a metal-railed balcony on the second story. A large, brick chimney with a corbelled cap sits at the roof peak between the two additions.

### *Interior*

The side-hall, double parlor plan on the first and second floors of the main block remains mostly intact and contains many original finishes. The third floor appears to be in its original configuration and was finished living space from an early date. Twentieth-century alterations include reconfiguring the back stair hall to accommodate a closet and bathroom on the first floor, and adding a bathroom at the end of the hall on the second floor. A stairway under the main stairs accesses the original section of the basement under the main block.

The stair hall and double parlors contain original flooring, baseboards and walls. The tongue-and-groove flooring consists of pine boards approximately six inches wide. The baseboards are about eight inches high and feature a square-edged backboard topped by an ovulo molding set back from the face of the backboard. The original walls retain their lath-and-plaster finish; non-historic partition walls are clad with dry wall. The molded chair rail and crown molding around the eleven-foot ceilings were added by the current owners. The wide trim surrounding the doors and windows is composed of a molded outer edge, flat face, and inner beading. The wood, four-paneled interior doors have fielded panels and molded edges on the rails and stiles; most have historic porcelain knobs and escutcheons.

The stair hall contains a cantilevered spiral stairway that extends from the first to the third floors. A large, turned, wood newel post accents the stair railing, which features a molded handrail and turned balusters. Spandrels with a scroll-sawn floral motif decorate all levels of the staircase. Centered in the east wall of the front parlor is the original marble mantelpiece, which consists of a bow-shaped mantelshelf supported by a boss carved in a floral motif, and a marble surround with panels defined by a incised line. The marble hearth and brick firebox are non-historic. The fireplace originally projected into the room, with the hall door to its north and an alcove to the south. The current owners rebuilt the wall to enclose ductwork to the north of the fireplace and to create a built-in closet in the alcove. Large double doors, approximately nine feet tall and similar to the other original doors, separate the parlors. Originally, the back or north parlor mirrored the front parlor, with an alcove and door flanking the fireplace. The fireplace was removed when the

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. QA-612

Name: Bryan-Parr Farm  
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 2

---

fireplace wall and alcove (to the north of the fireplace in this room) were rebuilt to include ductwork and a built-in closet. What may have originally been an exterior door in the north wall now leads from the back parlor to the kitchen addition.

The second floor of the main block consists of a stair hall and two bedrooms. The wall finishes and baseboards are similar to those on the first floor. Area carpet covers the floor in the hall, and the bedrooms have wall-to-wall carpeting. The centered, marble fireplaces in the bedrooms are less ornate than the one in the front parlor, but are similar in style. The current owners rebuilt the fireplace wall to include ductwork and a built-in closet as in the first-floor parlors, and added a molded chair rail and crown molding. A single door with original design and trim connects the two bedrooms. A non-historic bathroom has been added to the north end of the stair hall. The third floor has been finished in a similar manner as the first and second floors. A notable feature on the third floor is the stair balustrade, which continues around the stair opening and ends against the east wall of the hall, leaving a narrow space between the railing and the knee wall. One bedroom with random-width pine floors occupies the central portion of the third floor. A non-historic bathroom extends off the hallway to the north.

The kitchen, located in the shed-roofed addition on the north wall of the main block, was added prior to the 1960s, but has been updated with more recent fixtures and finishes. The two brick additions constructed in the 1980s contain one room each on the main floor and bedrooms on the second floor. The two-story addition is connected to the main block via stairs at the north and south ends of the original stair hall. The stairs lead down from the original stair hall into small vestibules in the addition. A stairway from the north vestibule provides access to the new basement area under the additions. The door and window trim throughout the additions are very similar to that in the main block; the fireplaces are larger and feature wood surrounds. A small circular stairs in the northeast corner of the one-and-one-half story addition provides access to the second floor of the wing. The floors throughout the two additions are carpeted.

### Outbuildings

Nine historic structures stand to the north and northeast of the house. Immediately to the north of the house is the one-and-one-half story, front-gable, brick smokehouse that was built in the 1860s and appears to be the earliest outbuilding on the property. The walls have varying bond patterns and are plastered in some areas, possibly indicating that the entire exterior was once plastered. The façade (south elevation) contains a centered, vertical wood plank door with iron strap hinges and plain wood surround. Ventilation holes formed by missing bricks in a diamond pattern are located in the north and south gable ends. The west and east elevations have no openings. A corbelled brick cornice and wood shingles surmount the building. The interior retains its plastered walls.

A one-and-one-half story, front gable horse barn sits across the gravel driveway from the smokehouse. Clad in wood weatherboard with plain wood cornerboards and fascia, the horse barn appears to date from the first half of the twentieth century. It has a poured concrete foundation and a corrugated metal roof. The symmetrical, three-bay façade (south elevation) features a centered, sliding double door composed of beaded tongue-and-groove boards, a nine-light hopper window on the west, and a six-over-six double-hung window on the east. The three-bay east elevation contains a six-over-six double-hung window to the south of two wood Dutch doors. The north elevation has a single, centered sliding door, while the west elevation has two wood Dutch doors. The gables each have a single loft door. Inside, a center aisle divides two stalls along the west wall from two smaller stalls and an enclosed tack room along the east wall.

The well house, located east of the house, may be contemporary to the smokehouse. Constructed of brick, the front-gable well house with corrugated metal roof, plain wood fascia, and enclosed rafters is half below ground. Entrance is gained through a door in the north gable end.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. QA-612

Name: Bryan-Parr Farm  
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 3

---

The machinery shed, located across the driveway from the well house, is composed of two post-and-beam sections. Clad in board-and-batten siding, the late nineteenth-century/early twentieth-century, one-story section contains three bays marked by large double doors with angled corners. The side-gable roof is covered in corrugated metal and has open eaves with a plain wood fascia. The early to mid-twentieth-century, three-bay, one-and-one-half-story section has vertical board siding, a standing-seam metal roof, and even larger double doors with angled corners. Some of the doors are missing. Portions of the building have a poured concrete floor and a poured concrete foundation. A wall composed of bead board separates the second and third bays in the later section; a stove pipe hole in the northeast corner indicates that this section was heated at one time.

East of the well house is a complex of circa 1930 dairy buildings. The one-story, concrete block, front-gable milk house has a corrugated metal roof with enclosed rafters and a plain wood fascia. Two round ventilation stacks are located along the ridgeline with a brick interior chimney in the north end. The north elevation contains a single, five-panel, wood door on the west end. The gable is clad in vertical board siding with rounded edges pierced by a metal louvered opening. The west elevation features a series of six-over-six, double-hung, wood windows with wood trim and brick sills. The south and east elevations are obscured by plant growth.

The large dairy barn is clad in wood weatherboard with plain corner boards, and has a corrugated-metal gambrel roof pierced by two round ventilation stacks. The north elevation has a triangular hay hood. A metal silo with a domed metal roof is attached to the southeast corner of the barn by a one-story, gable-roofed, frame structure with a poured concrete foundation and a flanking gable-roofed portion to the north. Much of the dairy barn was not visible due to overgrown bushes, trees, and vines covering the structure.

East of the dairy barn stands an early twentieth-century, two-story, front-gable barn with two one-story, side-gabled additions to its south and east; the three buildings form an L-shaped complex of barn and equipment sheds/loafing sheds. All three structures are clad in wood weatherboard. Built on brick piers, the barn has a corrugated-metal roof. Inside, some of the square posts have mortise cuts that indicate reuse from another, older building. The interior features a poured concrete floor on the first floor, and bead board flooring in the full, second-floor loft. The two additions are three-sided structures open to the asphalt lot located in the inside corner of the "L." The south addition incorporates three bays demarcated by square wood posts, and a square wood cupola in the center of the roof. The east addition has eight bays divided by round wood posts.

Two sheds stand across the driveway from the barns. A larger front-gable building, supported on a brick pier foundation, has a gable roof with two shed-roofed side sections; all sections of the building are clad in standing-seam metal. On the five-bay south elevation, Dutch doors on the west and east ends and a center door provide access to a loading dock on wood piers that extends across the façade, indicating that the building may have been used to store and distribute feed. Small window openings are located between the doors. Although oriented to the other agricultural buildings on the property and constructed at about the same time, this shed is no longer part of the current property. The second shed, a one-story building clad in board-and-batten siding, is overgrown and in ruinous condition.



# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. QA-612

Name: Bryan-Parr Farm  
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

---

B. Brown as trustees to sell Russell Dale in order to settle Bryan's debts. In 1876, the trustees sold the 400-acre property to Francis W. Neavitt of Baltimore. That same year, Neavitt sold a one-third share to Keating and a one-third share to Brown. In 1877, Keating and Neavitt sold their shares to Brown, who owned the entire 400-acre parcel for the next twenty years.

John B. Brown was a lawyer who lived in Centreville in the 1870s and 1880s,<sup>7</sup> and he likely leased the farm to a tenant. In 1897, when Brown in turn became insolvent, his trustee William W. Bustead conducted a public sale of the farm then known as the Bryan Farm. Russell Dale continued as a tenant farm during the ownership of Robert B. Dixon, a Talbot County farmer who owned the property from 1897 until 1919, and of Charles W. Butler, who purchased the property in 1919. Since Butler was nearly 70 years old when he bought the land, it is likely one of his children farmed the property or he hired a tenant farmer.<sup>8</sup>

Tenant farming was common in Queen Anne's County from the mid-nineteenth century through the early twentieth century. After the Civil War ended in 1865, many of the large plantations of antebellum Queen Anne's County were sub-divided into smaller farms or leased to tenants. As a result, new farm complexes and tenant houses were erected throughout the county. Between 1910 and 1930, more than half of the farmers in Queen Anne's County did not own the land they worked; the majority of these tenant farmers were white.<sup>9</sup> Wheat and corn were the chief crops being raised in the county from the late nineteenth through the early twentieth centuries; they were particularly profitable because they could be transported by rail or ship to markets in Baltimore.<sup>10</sup>

Butler added acreage to the farm; when his children sold the tract in 1937, it encompassed 450 acres. Several of the historic agricultural outbuildings date from the period of Dixon's ownership of the farm (1897-1919), including the dairy barn and milkhouse. During this period, Queen Anne's County experienced a dramatic growth in dairy farming. After World War I, prices for wheat and corn dropped, so Maryland farmers diversified their crops and increased dairy production.<sup>11</sup> Between 1880 and 1920, the number of dairy cattle in Queen Anne's County nearly tripled, and the agricultural landscape in the county changed with the addition of dairy barns with silos for cattle feed, and milking sheds to store the milk.<sup>12</sup> The presence of the railroad and the increasing development and improvement of roads in the 1920s provided ready access for transporting the milk to market. In 1919, the county produced over 1.6 million gallons of milk; milk production doubled by 1935.<sup>13</sup>

Walter and Helen Schiffer relocated to Queen Anne's County from New York City after purchasing the property from Butler's heirs in 1937. By the 1920s, wealthy outsiders such as the Schiffers were purchasing rural and waterfront properties in Queen Anne's County and throughout the Eastern Shore for use as rural estates, hunting retreats, and recreational properties. Often, these new, wealthy residents restored older homes or built new Colonial Revival-style houses that they believed appropriate to the property; it is not clear whether the Schiffers lived in the existing 1860s house on the property or constructed a new residence. The Schiffers were the first in

<sup>7</sup> 1870 U.S. Population Census, Queen Anne's County, Maryland, District 3, Centreville P.O., p. 91; 1880 U.S. Population Census, Queen Anne's County, Maryland, District 1, Enumeration District No. 1, Centreville, Sheet No. 10.

<sup>8</sup> 1900 U.S. Population Census, Queen Anne's County, Maryland, District 2, Enumeration District No. 85, Sheet No. 12 (Dixon); 1920 U.S. Population Census, Queen Anne's County, Maryland, District 1, Enumeration District No. 81, Sheet No. 2 (Butler).

<sup>9</sup> 1910 and 1920 Federal Census, *Historical Census Browser* (Charlottesville, Va.: University of Virginia, Geospatial and Statistical Data Center, 2004), accessed December 2006 and 11 October 2007, <<http://fisher.lib.virginia.edu/collections/stats/histcensus/index.html>>.

<sup>10</sup> J. Thomas Scharf, *The Natural & Industrial Resources and Advantages of Maryland* (Annapolis, Md.: C.H. Baughman & Co., State Printers, 1892), p. 95.

<sup>11</sup> Robert J. Brugger, *Maryland: A Middle Temperament, 1630-1980* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1988), pp.460-461.

<sup>12</sup> Frederick Emory, *Queen Anne's County, Maryland: Its Early History and Development* (Baltimore: The Maryland Historical Society, 1950), as originally published in the *Centreville Observer* 1886-1887, p. 28; *Fourteenth Census of the United States, State Compendium, Maryland* (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1924), p. 59.

<sup>13</sup> Department of Commerce, *Fourteenth Census of the United States, State Compendium, Maryland* (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1924), page 57; and A.B. Hamilton, *Agricultural Statistics for Maryland by Counties* (College Park, Md.: University of Maryland, Agricultural Experiment Station, Department of Agricultural Economics, September 1936). Files of Enoch Pratt Library, Baltimore.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. QA-612

Name: Bryan-Parr Farm  
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

---

a series of owners who lived on the farm, but were not farmers before purchasing the property. Many wealthy migrants who purchased land on the Eastern Shore in the 1920s and 1930s took up farming after moving to the area.<sup>14</sup>

In 1947, the Schiffers sold the 450 acres to Covert and Eutha Crowder; the Crowders, and possibly the Schiffers before them, lived in another house on the farm. In 1955, the Crowders divided the property, reserving for themselves over twenty-six acres that included their house, and sold the remaining acreage to the Monumental Corporation of Baltimore. In September 1955, Monumental Corporation subdivided the property and conveyed two tracts of land, including the sixty-six-acre Bennett Point Road parcel with the dwelling and the farm buildings to Dr. G. Loutrell and Helen Timanus, who already owned land on Bennett Point Road. Dr. Timanus had a medical practice in Baltimore from 1920 until 1951.<sup>15</sup> In 1957, the Timanuses conveyed the property to Diversified Projects, Inc., a Delaware corporation of which Timanus was president.<sup>16</sup> In 1964, Diversified Projects, Inc. sold the Bryan Farm to Bertram and Anne Parr. During their ownership, the Parrs operated a dairy farm with as many as one hundred cows. Anne Parr is the current owner.

---

<sup>14</sup> Brugger, pp. 521-523.

<sup>15</sup> In 1951, Dr. Timanus was prosecuted and stripped of his medical credentials for performing abortions in his office in Baltimore. In 1955, he testified at an international conference on abortion that was sponsored by Planned Parenthood of America and the New York Academy of Medicine. His testimony received national press attention and was covered in *Time* magazine. See "Abortion in the U.S.," *Time*, June 2, 1958, <<http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,893984,00.html>> (accessed December 7, 2007); parcel description in 1937 deed (Liber WHC 4A, folio 518).

<sup>16</sup> "Russell Dale, 1658"; paper prepared for Anne S. Parr, courtesy of Mrs. Parr.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. QA-612

Name: Bryan-Parr Farm  
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 3

### Chain of Title

4 November 1986	Bertram L. Parr & Anne S. Parr to Anne S. Parr Liber MWM 264, folio 422 Parcel 2 (of two parcels)
11 January 1964	Diversified Projects, Inc. (Delaware corp.), The Centreville National Bank of Maryland (first mortgager), Charles E. Wheeler & Edward T. Miller (successor trustees), G. Loutrell Timanus (Dade Co., FL), Helen M. Timanus (Dade Co, FL) to Bertram L. & Anne S. Parr (h&w, Williamsburg, VA) Liber CWC 6, folio 274 Property settlement between Timanuses created a trust with Wheeler & Miller appointed successor trustees and with Timanuses as beneficiaries of trust; deed included all tracts known as the Schiffer Farm, Crowder Farm, Russell Dale, and Bryan Farm. Parcel 1a—103.662 acres; Parcel 1b—66.399 acres; Parcel 1c—36.702 acres; Parcel 1d—47.295 acres (less 15.706 acres retained by G. Loutrell Timanus. Parcels 2 & 3 not part of later property.
19 December 1957	J. Elmer Thompson Jr. & Charles E. Wheeler (attorneys for H. Raymond & Gertrude B. Adams) to G. Loutrell Timanus who conveys to Diversified Projects, Inc. Liber TSP 38, folio 393 Four parcels; Parcel 4, part b: 66.399 acres with the dwelling and all farm buildings located on this parcel.
7 July 1956	G. Loutrell & Helen M. Timanus to H. Raymond & Gertrude B. Adams Liber TSP 29, folio 32 Same as above
1 September 1955	Monumental Corporation (Maryland) to G. Loutrell Timanus Liber TSP 24, folio 44 Two tracts – Tract 1 has 5 parcels; Tract 2 has 66.399 acres with dwelling & all farm buildings.
28 March 1955	Covert F. & Eutha M. Crowder to Monumental Corporation Liber TSP 21, folio 15 All tracts now composing the farm known as the Crowder Farm, the Schiffer Farm, Russell Dale or the Bryan Farm; 439.274 acres reserving 26.48 acres “on which their mansion house is located” to Crowders
1 April 1947	Walter A. & Helen B. Schiffer to Covert F. & Eutha M. Crowder Liber ASG Jr. 16, folio 562 All the farm now reduced into one farm lately known as the Charles W. Butler Farm, Russell Dale, and the Bryan Farm; 450.1 acres

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. QA-612

Name: Bryan-Parr Farm  
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 4

17 April 1937	Charles W. Butler, Jr. & Frances Butler, Harry C. Butler, Louise B. Carter & James B. Carter, Anita Butler, Julian M. Butler & Irene Butler, Frances E. Anthony & Claude P. Anthony to Walter A. Schiffer of New York City Liber WHC 4A, folio 518 All farm known as Charles E. Butler Farm, Russell Dale, the Bryan Farm; 450.1 acres; farm conveyed from estate of Charles W. Butler (last w&t in WBT1:359) to wife Isabel C. Butler for life (died 1932) & then to children..
6 January 1919	Robert B. Dixon (Talbot Co.), widower to Charles W. Butler Liber JFR 1, folio 478 Three parcels; Parcel 1 is tract known as Russell Dale, the Bryan Farm or the Edward Bryan Farm; 400 acres, 2 roods
4 November 1897	William W. Bustead, trustee in insolvency of John B. Brown, to Robert B. Dixon (Talbot Co.) Liber WHC 7, folio 38 Public sale of all that farm called Russell Dale or Bryan Farm
6 December 1877	Francis W. Neavitt & L. D. Neavitt (husband & wife) of Baltimore to John B. Brown Liber JW 7, folio 346 Undivided one-third interest in all that farm land called Russell Dale; 400 acres, 2 roods
26 November 1877	Thomas J. Keating & Sarah F. Keating to John B. Brown Liber JW 7, folio 316 Undivided one-third interest in Russell Dale; 400 acres, 2 roods
21 November 1876	Francis W. Neavitt & L. B. Neavitt (husband & wife) of Baltimore to John B. Brown Liber JW 6, folio 332 Undivided one-third interest in estate called Russell Dale; 400 acres, 2 roods
20 June 1876	John B. Brown & Thomas J. Keating, trustees of Edward & Mary C. Bryan to Francis W. Neavitt of Baltimore Liber JW 6, folio 333 Sale of property in settlement of case "John B. Brown and Thomas J. Keating, Trustees vs Edward Bryan and Mary C. Bryan, his wife" or "In the Matter of the Trust Estate of Edward Bryan and wife"; farm generally known as the "Home Farm" of Edward Bryan consisting of all that tract...called Russell Dale; 400 acres, 10 roods
9 June 1871	Edward Bryan & Mary Bryan deed to Thomas J. Keating & John B. Brown, trustees Liber JW 3, folio 9

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. QA-612

Name: Bryan-Parr Farm  
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 5

---

	Bryans deed property to Keating & Brown to sell to settle debts; all that farm called Russell Dale, 420 square acres, 3 roods & 6 perches; includes sale of livestock & farm equipment from farm where "said Bryan resides".
17 March 1866	Thomas Dodd, commissioner appointed to divide real estate of Valentine Bryan (deceased) to Edward Bryan Liber SED 2, folio 258 Edward Bryan elected to take all tract of land called Russell Dale containing 752 acres & 19 perches; Edward sells 211 acres, 1 rood & 16 perches to brother Thomas Alfred Bryan and sells 112 acres, 3 roods & 37 perches to brother George L. Bryan



# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. QA-612

Name: Bryan-Parr Farm  
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 1

---

### Major Bibliographical References

1910 and 1920 Federal Census. *Historical Census Browser*. Charlottesville, Va.: University of Virginia, Geospatial and Statistical Data Center, 2004. Accessed December 2006 and 11 October 2007.  
<<http://fisher.lib.virginia.edu/collections/stats/histcensus/index.html>>

"Abortion in the U.S." *Time*, June 2, 1958. Accessed December 7, 2007.  
<<http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,893984,00.html>>.

Brugger, Robert J. *Maryland: A Middle Temperament, 1630-1980*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1988.

Hamilton, A.B. *Agricultural Statistics for Maryland by Counties*. College Park, Md.: University of Maryland, Agricultural Experiment Station, Department of Agricultural Economics, September 1936. Files of Enoch Pratt Library, Baltimore.

Emory, Frederick. *Queen Anne's County, Maryland: Its Early History and Development*. Baltimore: The Maryland Historical Society, 1950. Originally published in the *Centreville Observer* 1886-1887.

*Fourteenth Census of the United States. State Compendium, Maryland*. Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1924.

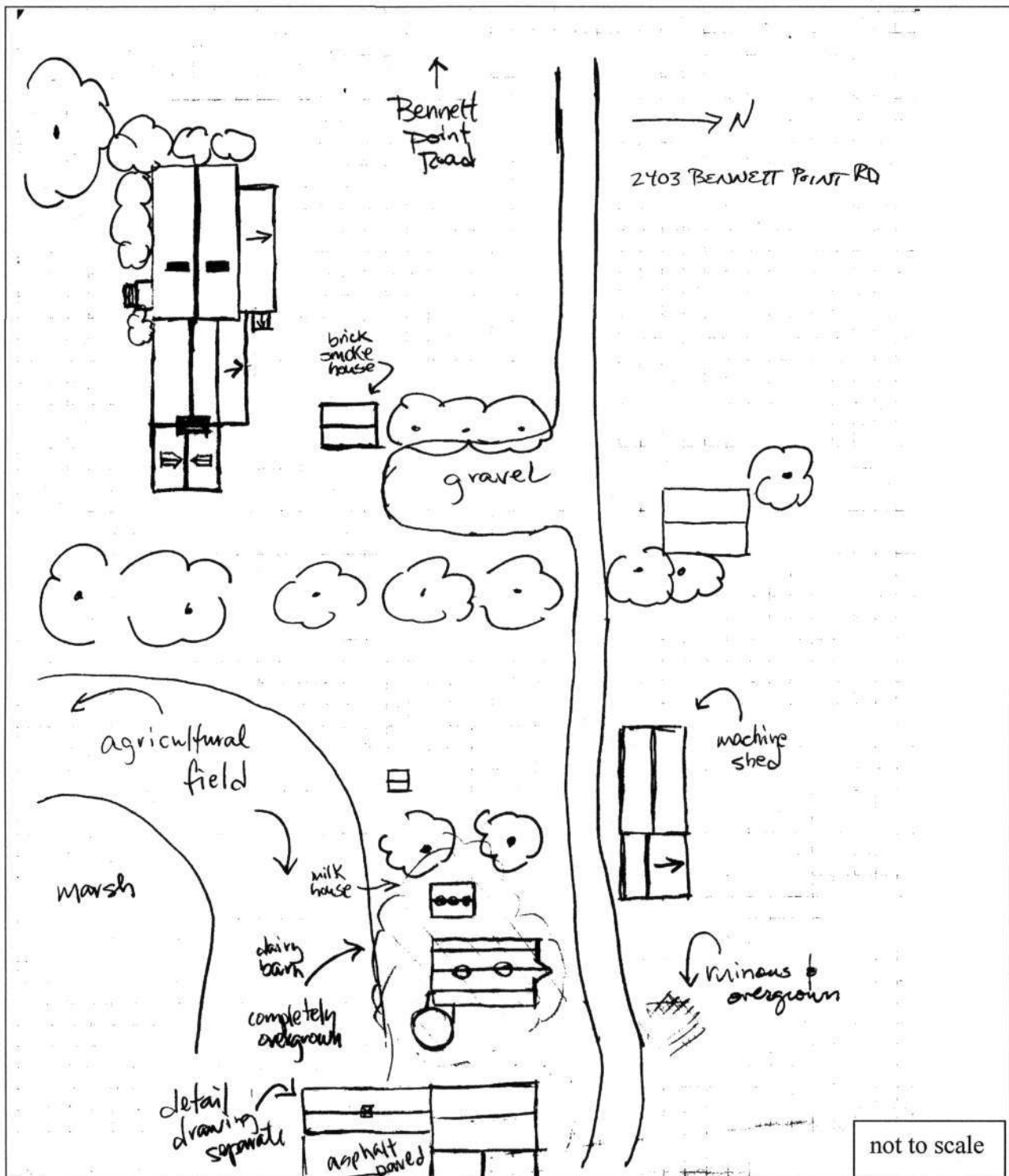
*J. G. Strong's Map of Queen Anne's County*. N.p.: J.G. Strong, 1866.

"Russell Dale, 1658." Paper prepared for Anne S. Parr. Private collection.

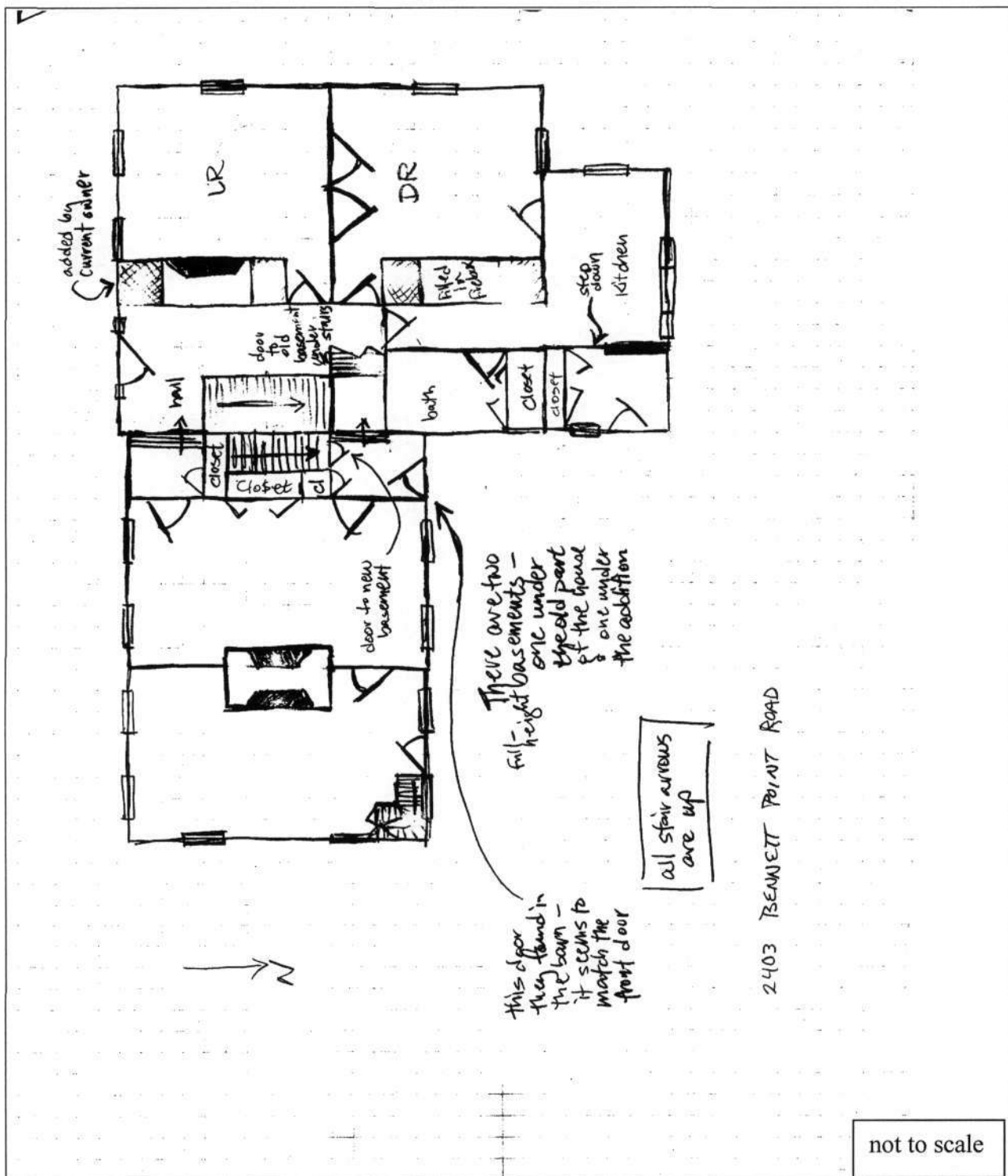
Scharf, J. Thomas. *The Natural & Industrial Resources and Advantages of Maryland*. Annapolis, Md.: C.H. Baughman & Co., State Printers, 1892.

U.S. Department of Commerce. *Fourteenth Census of the United States, State Compendium, Maryland*. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1924. Files of Enoch Pratt Library, Baltimore.

U.S. Population Census, Queen Anne's County, Maryland, 1860-1880, 1900-1930.

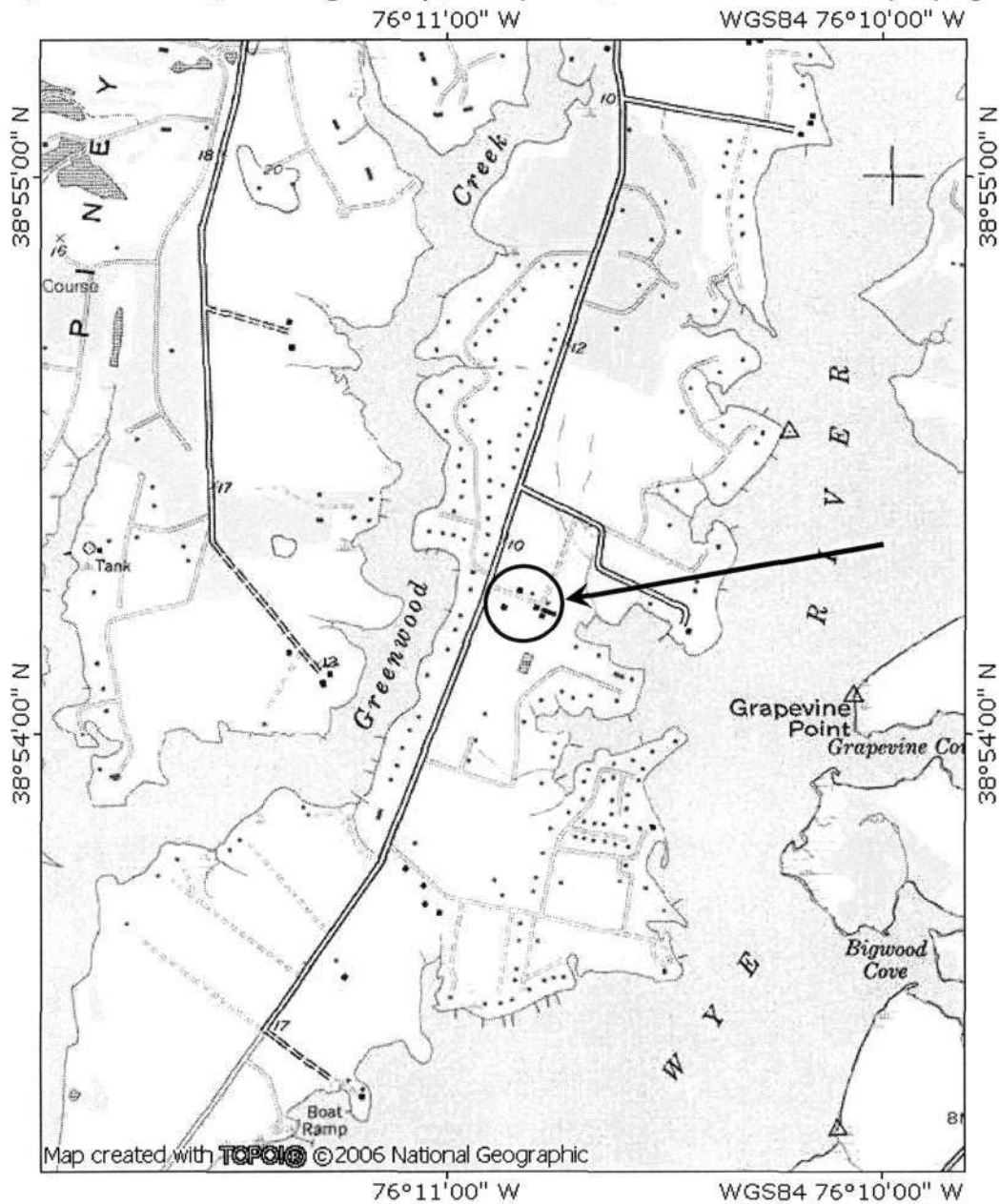


Site Plan  
 QA-612  
 Bryan-Parr Farm  
 2403 Bennett Point Road  
 Queenstown vicinity  
 Queen Anne's County, Maryland



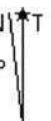
Floor Plan  
 QA-612  
 Bryan-Parr Farm  
 2403 Bennett Point Road  
 Queenstown vicinity  
 Queen Anne's County, Maryland

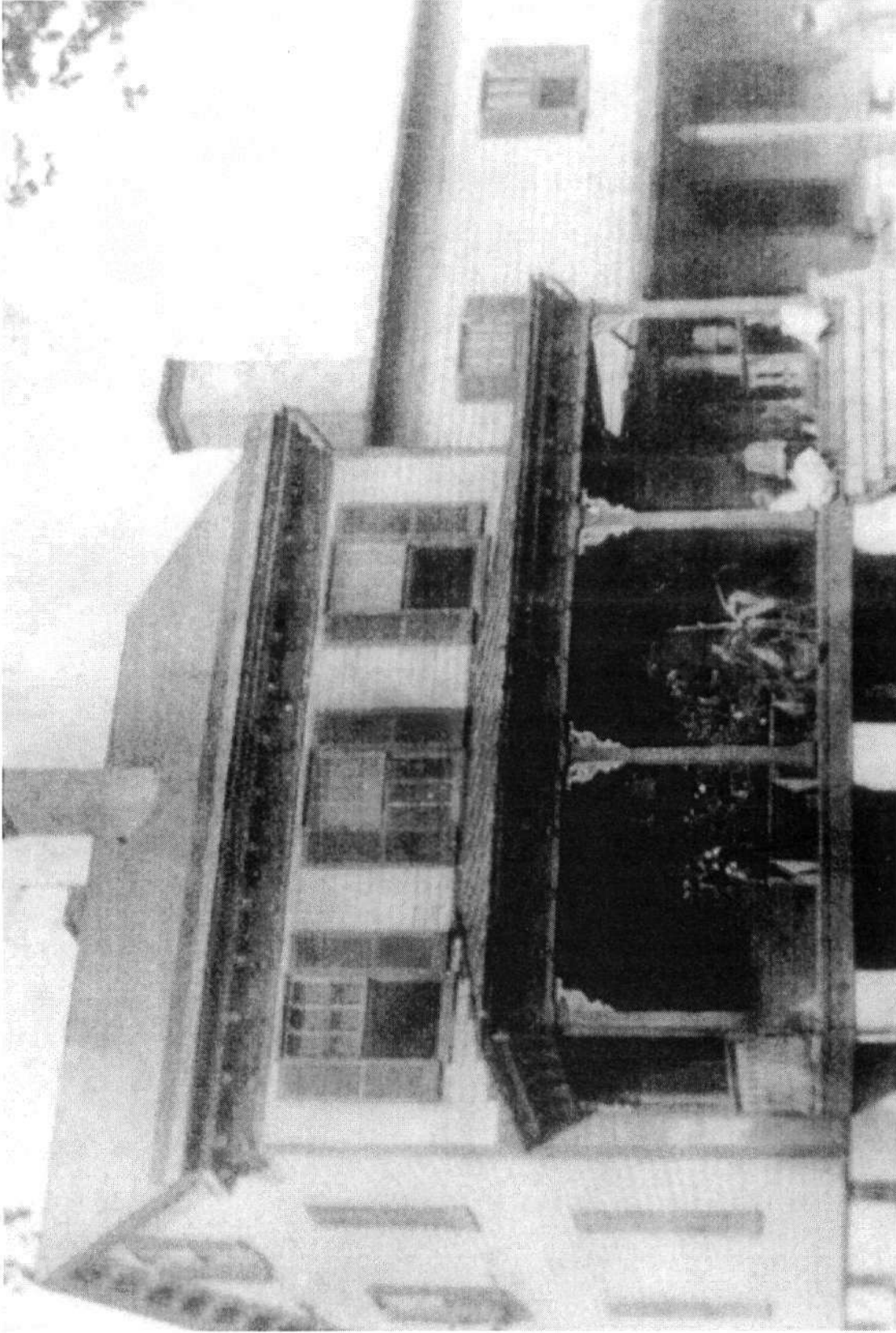
USGS Queenstown Quadrangle Map, Maryland, 7.5 Minute Series (Topographic)



**QA-612**  
**Bryan-Parr Farm**  
**2403 Bennett Point Road**  
**Queenstown vicinity**  
**Queen Anne's County**

0.0 0.5 1.0 miles  
 0.0 0.5 1.0 1.5 km

MN   
 11½°  
 08/13/07



**Nineteenth-century Photograph**  
QA-612 – Bryan-Parr Farm  
Queenstown vicinity, Queen Anne's County, Md.  
[courtesy of Mrs. Anne Parr]





Circa 1970 Photograph  
QA-612 - Bryan-Parr Farm  
Queenstown vicinity, Queen Anne's County, Md.  
[courtesy of Mrs. Anne Parr]



QA-612

Bryan-Parr Farm

2403 Bennett Point Road, Queenstown vicinity

Queen Anne's County, MD

History Matters, LLC

7/2007

Maryland SHPO

Facade (south elevation)

1 of 23



QA-612

Bryan-Parr Farm

2403 Bennett Point Road, Queenstown vicinity

Queen Anne's County, MD

History Matters, LLC

7/2007

Maryland SHPO

South elevation, Looking NW

2 of 23





QA-612

Bryan-Parr Farm

2403 Bennett Point Road, Queenstown vicinity

Queen Anne's County, MD

History Matters, LLC

7/2007

Maryland SHPO

East + North elevations of additions, Looking SW

3 of 23



QA-612

Bryan-Parr Farm

2403 Bennett Point Road, Queenstown vicinity

Queen Anne's County, MD

History Matters, LLC

7/2007

Maryland SHPO

North elevation of main block + 2-story addition

4 of 23



QA-612

Bryan-Parr Farm

2403 Bennett Point Road, Queenstown vicinity

Queen Anne's County, MD

History Matters, LLC

7/2007

Maryland SHPO

west elevation

5 of 23





QA-612

Bryar-Parr Farm

2403 Bennett Point Road, Queenstown vicinity

Queen Anne's County, MD

History Matters, LLC

7/2007

Maryland SHPO

Interior, stairhall, Looking NE

6 of 23



QA-612

Bryan Parr Farm

2403 Bennett Point Road, Queenstown vicinity

Queen Anne's County, MD

History Matters, LLC

7/2007

Maryland SHPO

Interior, stair hall, Looking S

7 of 23



QA-612

Bryan-Parr Farm

2403 Bennett Point Road, Queenstown vicinity

Queen Anne's County, MD

History Matters, LLC

7/2007

Maryland SH 70

Living Room, Looking SE

8 of 23





QA-612

Bryan Parr Farm  
2403 Bennett Point Road, Queenstown vicinity

Queen Anne's County, MD  
History Matters, LLC

7/2007

Maryland SH 70

Dining Room, Looking NE

9 of 23



QA-612

Bryan-Parr Farm

2403 Bennett Point Road, Queenstown vicinity

Queen Anne's County, MD

History Matters, LLC

7/2007

Maryland SHPO

Dining Room, Looking S

10/23



QA-612

Bryan-Parr Farm  
2403 Bennett Point Road, Queenstown vicinity  
Queen Anne's County, MD

History Matters, LLC

7/2007

Maryland SHPO

Stairhall, 2nd Floor, Looking S

11/23





QA-612

Bryan-Parr Farm

2403 Bennett Point Road, Queenstown vicinity

Queen Anne's County, MD

History Matters, LLC

7/2007

Maryland SHPO

South bedroom, Looking SE (second Floor)

12 of 23



QA-612

Bryan-Parr Farm  
2403 Bennett Point Road, Queenstown vicinity  
Queen Anne's County, MD  
History Matters, LLC

7/2007

Maryland SHPO

North bedroom, 2nd Floor, Looking SE

13 of 23



QA-6/2

Bryan-Parr Farm

2403 Bennett Point Road, Queenstown vicinity

Queen Anne's County, MD

History Matters, LLC

7/2007

Maryland SHPO

Smokehouse, south elevation

14 of 23



QA-612

Bryan Parr Farm

2403 Bennett Point Road, Queenstown vicinity

Queen Anne's County, MD

History Matters, LLC

7/2007

Maryland SH PO

Well house, Looking SE

15 of 23





QA-612

Bryan - Parr Farm

2403 Bennett Point Road, Queenstown vicinity

Queen Anne's County, MD

History Matters, LLC

7/2007

Maryland SHPO

Horse barn, west + south elevations, Looking NE

16 of 23



QA-612

Dryan-Parr Farm

2403 Bennett Point Road, Queenstown vicinity

Queen Anne's County, MD

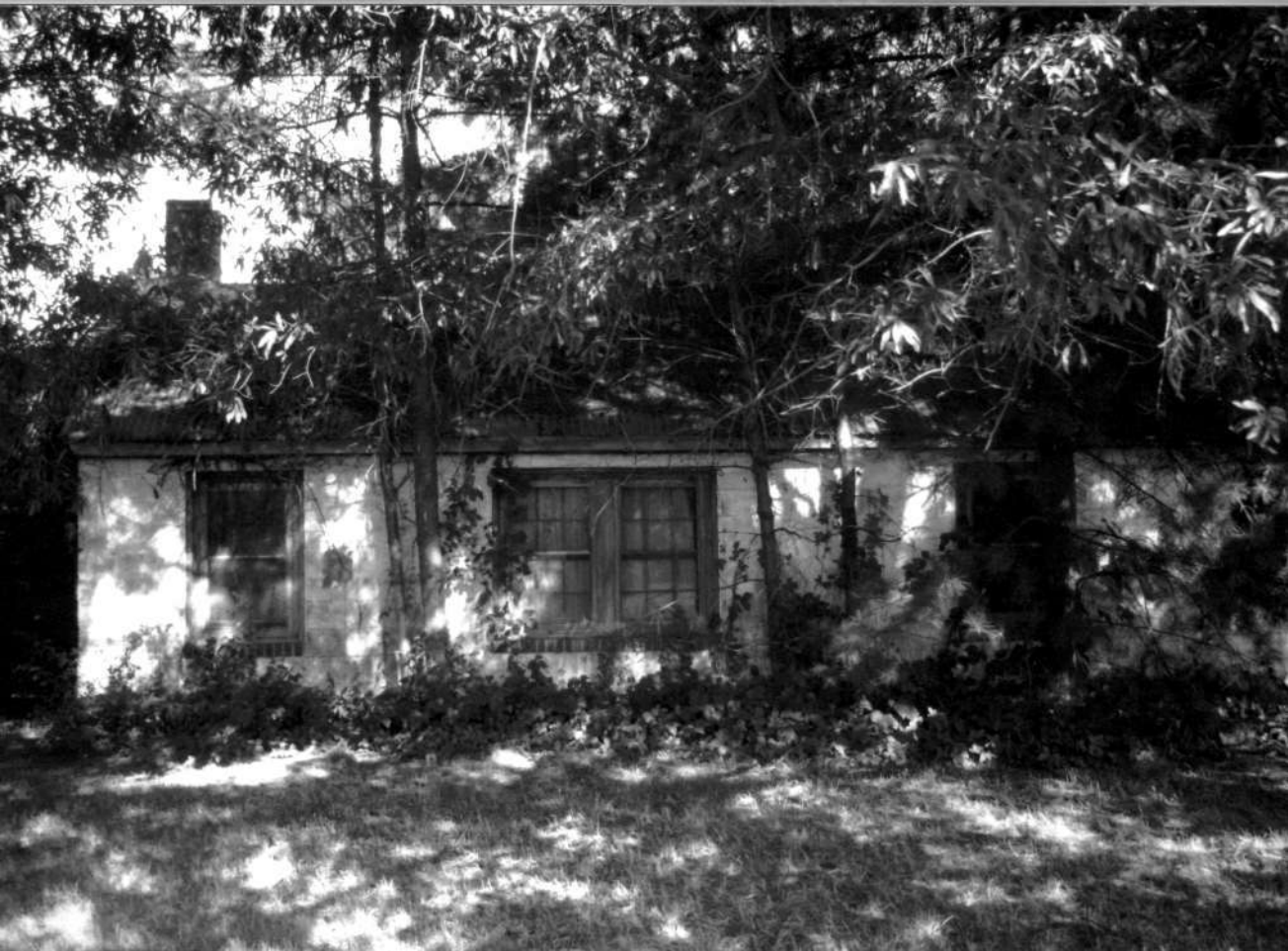
History Matters, LLC

7/2007

Maryland SHPO

Machine shed, south elevation

12 of 23



QA-612

Bryan-Parr Farm

2403 Bennett Point Road, Queenstown vicinity

Queen Anne's County, MD

History Matters, LLC

7/2007

Maryland SHPO

milk house, west elevation

18 of 23





QA-612

Bryan + Parr Farm

2403 Bennett Point Road, Queenstown vicinity

Queen Anne's County, MD

History Matters, LLC

7/2007

Maryland SHPO

Darryl Barr, Looking SE

19 of 23



QA-612

Bryan-Parr Farm

2403 Bennett Point Road, Queenstown vicinity

Queen Anne's County, MD

History Matters, LLC

7/2007

Maryland SHPO

Feed shed, south elevation

20 of 23



QA-612

Bryan-Parr Farm

2403 Bennett Point Road, Queenstown vicinity

Queen Anne's County, MD

History Matters, LLC

7/2007

Maryland SHPO

Barn and sheds, Looking NW

21 of 23



QA-612

Bryan-Parr Farm

2403 Bennett Point Road, Queenstown vicinity

Queen Anne's County, MD

History Matters, LLC

7/2007

Maryland SHPO

Barn, south elevation, Looking NW

22 of 23





QA-612

Bryan-Parr Farm

2403 Bennett Point Road, Queenstown vicinity

Queen Anne's County, MD

History Matters, LLC

7/2007

Maryland SHPO

Equipment shed / loading shed, east elevation

23 of 23